(c) As far as HIV eradication is concerned, the NGO activities are mainly decentralized to State/UT-run AIDS Control Society set up in each and every State/UT. The budgetary provisions for external assistance during 2000-2001 are to the tune of Rs. 143.50 crores of which Rs. 2.50 crore is under Central Sector. The remaining provision are in State Sector.

As far as multi drug resistant TB is concerned, under the World Bank assisted Revised National TB Control Programme there is a provision of Rs. 6.78 crores for involvement of NGOs in different aspects of the Revised Strategy.

Medicines for Tuberculosis

†3723. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the maximum number of Tuberculosis patients die in India due to the very costly medicines for curing tuberculosis;

(b) if so, the year-wise number of tuberculosis patients who died in 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide medicines for curing tuberculosis at cheaper rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (d) Anti-TB drugs are provided free of cost to "patients throughout the country. Under the World Bank assisted Revised National TB Control Programme, anti-TB drugs, are provided in kind for (i) all patients in RNTCP districts and (ii) for sputum positive cases in all other districts. Under NTCP cash assistance is provided to states for 100% requirement of anti-TB drugs for sputum negative cases in non-RNTCP districts by Government of India. Deaths are not being reported under the National TB Control Programme. It is estimated that nearly 0.5 million people die due to TB every year in the country.

Reference of Cases by AIIMS

3724. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of patients are sent almost daily for admission in Safdarjung Hospital by the doctors of AIIMS;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, including the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government had received any protest from the Safdarjung Hospital in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (b) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital has 1626 beds. Due to constraints of beds and AIIMS Hospital's Policy on non admission in case of non-availability of beds about 80 patients are referred to Safdarjung Hospital daily in the Institute's ambulance after stabilising their condition.

(c) No such protest has been received in the recent past from Safdarjung Hospital.

Effect of sub Standard Drugs on Epileptic Children

3725. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to a news-item titled Experts voice concern over sub-standard epilepsy drugs which appeared in the "Times of India", dated 20th January, 2000;

(b) whether a veiw was expressed at a meeting to discuss issue of childhood neurological problems where experts from SAARC countries participated that varying doses of formulations of epilepsy drugs can produce different results in people; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken by Government on that account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) As per the information available from the organisers of the conference, the SAARC expert group has expressed a view that anti-epileptic drug formulations available in SAARC countries has varying composition and this may lead to under/over dosages.

(c) Manufacturing licenses for the drug formulations in India are granted by the State Licensing Authorities. The various anti-epileptic formulations marketed in the country would be examined in consultation with the experts for streamlining the composition of these drugs.